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U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement
Federal Protective Service
Threat Management Division

FPS Intelligence Brief

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Source(s): DC Emergency Management
Agency, National Weather Svc.
Prepared By: FPS National Capital Region

Dissemination List

- Federal Protective Service (FPS)
- Other Law Enforcement Agencies
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Public Emergency for Severe Weather in the National Capital Region

OVERVIEW

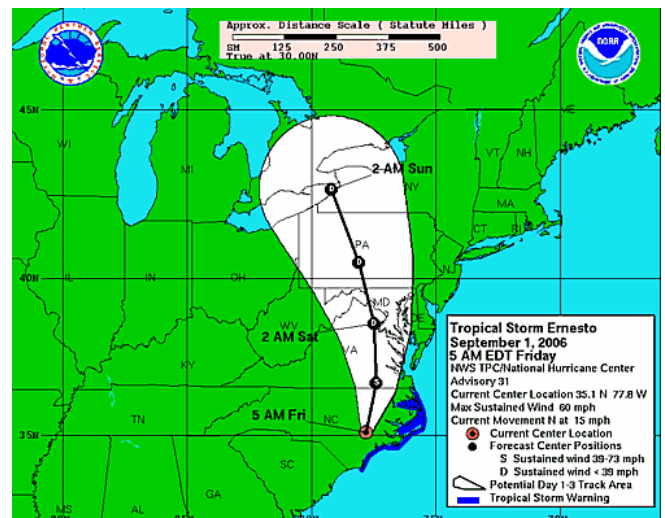
(U) On 31 August 2006, the District of Columbia declared a public emergency as a result of the forecasted impact of Tropical Storm Ernesto. The latest predictions for the National Capital Region include heavy rain, high winds, and possible flash/coastal flooding. This advisory is intended to provide tenant agencies and employees with the latest information and assist you in staying safe over the next few days. The Federal Protective Service (FPS) National Capital Region is working closely with the DC Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and other agencies to prepare for and monitor the situation, and will provide additional updates to tenant agencies should the need arise.

DETAILS / BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

(U) On 31 August 2006, DC EMA declared a public emergency due to the forecasted impact of Tropical Storm Ernesto, with four to eight inches of rainfall expected over the next few days. The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a flash flood watch through 2000 hours (8 pm) tonight (1 September 2006) for the District of Columbia, Maryland (West of the Chesapeake Bay except Garrett County), Central and Northern Virginia, and the eastern panhandle of West Virginia.

(U) A wind advisory is in effect for the area through 2200 hours (10 pm) tonight; sustained wind speeds between 20 and 30 MPH with gusts to around 45 MPH can be expected adjacent to the Bay, while winds will not be as strong away from the water.

(U) A coastal flood watch will also remain in effect through Saturday morning. Water levels are expected to rise as easterly winds increase today. High tide in the Washington Channel is predicted at 2:54 am Saturday with minor/moderate coastal flooding predicted at that time.



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(U) According to the NWS, the combination of heavy rains and gusty winds will result in some shallow rooted trees being knocked over, scattered power outages, as well as isolated instances of personal property damage.

(U) The DC Emergency Management Agency has provided the following recommendations that may help you and your family prepare for the next few days:

Residents of low-lying areas that are prone to habitual flooding should take steps now to prepare for possible floods. The city is distributing sandbags at two locations – 2244 10th Street, NW (enter on W Street between 10th Street and 11th Street) and 1240 W Street, NE. Hours of distribution at both locations are 7:30 am to 9 pm on Friday, September 1. Residents are limited to five sandbags per household and must show proof of District residency.

In preparation for the heavy rain residents should clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts and make sure that the trees and shrubs around their homes are well trimmed. They also should check sump pumps to be sure they are working properly and elevate furnaces, water heaters and electrical panels if located in an area prone to flooding.

Secure or tie down loose items to reduce flying debris.

If flooding does occur, do not drive through standing water. The depth of the water is not always obvious or the road could be washed away.

Residents should stay tuned to their local television or radio stations for updates on the weather forecast and information from city officials about additional protective actions.

(U) DC EMA also offers from additional recommendations in the event of a flood or heavy rain:

- **Be aware.** Listen to local news and watch for flash floods especially if near streams, drainage channels, and areas known to flood.
- **Get to higher ground** if you are in a low-lying area.
- **Prepare to evacuate as necessary or if directed by authorities.** Keep your car filled with fuel. If time allows, secure your home and move important items to upper floors.
- **Obey warnings.** If warning signs, barricades, or cones are in place...OBEY THEM! DO NOT drive around barricades...find another way to get where you need to go.
- **Fill clean containers with several days supply of drinking water.**
- **Things to avoid:**
 - Moving water. Six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet and two feet of moving water can float a car.
 - Flooding car. If water rises around your car, get out and move to higher ground *if you can do it safely*. Do not try to walk through moving water.
 - Flooded areas. Roadways and bridges may be washed out.
 - Downed power lines. These are extremely dangerous in floods.

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REFERENCES:

The following online resources were used in preparation of this bulletin and may assist you in preparing for and staying safe during extreme weather conditions and other emergencies:

DC Emergency Management Agency. Website: <http://dcema.dc.gov/dcema/site/default.asp>

DC EMA Disaster Preparedness Manual (2005). Available on the DC EMA website at: http://dcema.dc.gov/dcema/frames.asp?doc=/dcema/lib/dcema/pdf/dc-4th_ed_disaster_bk.pdf%20&dcemaNav_GID=1523

National Weather Service Forecast Office Baltimore/Washington: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/lwx/>

CONTACT THE FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE:

All personnel are reminded to report all security and safety incidents relating to federal facilities to FPS toll free by contacting:

**1-877-4FPS-411
(1-877-437-7411)**

Questions regarding any security or law enforcement issues may be directed to:

Central District (Washington, DC): **Valerie Lee-Lloyd, (Acting) District Commander, at 202-690-9159.**

Western District (Virginia): **Paul D. Constable, District Commander, at 703-235-6100.**

Eastern District (Maryland): **Earl Boyd, District Commander, at 301-572-1250.**

For further information or dissemination, contact:

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